

III. Amendments to the Claims:

In response to the Office Action of November 14, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently amended) A tube for separating at least some nucleic acid from a ~~preparing~~
fluid samples, the tube comprising:

a hollow, cylindrical body having an open end and a closed end; and

a filtering means for selectively retaining a desired substance from a sample fluid,

10 the filtering means being disposed in the body proximate to the closed end of the tube.

72. (Currently amended) A vessel for processing substances and separating at least some nucleic acid from the substance, the vessel comprising:

a hollow body comprising at least one closed end;

the at least one closed end being pierceable to allow fluid to flow when pierced;

5 and

a retaining substance for selectively retaining a desired substance from the fluid.

73. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises filter.

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74. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises filter paper.

75. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises fibers.

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76. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises glass.

77. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises solid phase extraction media.

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78. (Original) The vessel of claim 74, wherein the filter paper is formed into a cup.

79. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprise beads.

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80. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises silica.

5 81. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises a gel.

82. (Original) The vessel of claim 72, wherein the retaining substance further comprises surface coating.

10 83. (Currently amended) The vessel of claim 72, further comprising a gap interposed between the retaining substance and the closed end of the vessel tube.

84. (Original) The vessel of claim 83, wherein the gap is maintained by supporting means for supporting the retaining substance.
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85. (Currently amended) The vessel of claim 84, wherein the supporting means comprises one or more linear projections disposed radially from the center of the closed end of the vessel tube.

20 86. (Currently amended) The vessel of claim 84, wherein the supporting means comprises one or more arcuate projections disposed circularly around the center of the closed end of the vessel tube.

87. (Currently amended) The vessel of claim 72, further comprising a recess disposed on
25 the inside of the closed end of the vessel tube.

88. (Currently amended) The vessel of claim 87, wherein the recess is located generally in the center of the closed end of the vessel tube.

89. (Currently amended) The vessel of claim 88, wherein the recess comprises one or more grooves, the grooves passing generally through the center of the closed end of the vessel tube.